

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 103135

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /014 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/SCT-LOU CAVANAUGH

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R 282250Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS STATE 103135

FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMAB 4063 ACTION SECSTATE 22 -APR 76
QUOTE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 4063

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, PK,

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: CHASMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

REFERENCE: STATE 093857

1. EMBOFFS CALLED ON PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (PAEC) CHAIRMAN MUNIR KHAN APRIL 21 WITH REFERENCE TO QUESTION POSED REFTTEL. KHAN REPORTED THAT TTENDER DOCUMENTS FOR CHASMA HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED AND WOULD NOT BE UNTIL FINANCING FOR THEPROJECT HAD BEEN ARRANGED. ASKED ABOUT FINANCING, KHAN ANSWERED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING ON WITH A FRENCH SUPPLIER, FRAMATOM (WESTINGHOUSE LICENCES) BUT WERE FAR FROM FINAL. KHAN ALSO MENTIONED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE GOING ON WITH THE GERMAN FIRM, KRAFTWERKE UNION, BUT DISCOUNTED THESE EFFORTS BECAUSE GERMANS WISHED TO SELL A 900 MEGAWATT REACTOR RATHER THAN THE 600 MEGAWATT REACTOR WHICH PAKISTAN DESIRES. HE ALSO MENTIONED ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH A UNSPECIFIED JAPANESE FIRM. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE STILL HOPED TO OBTAIN HELP FROM SOME RIVH MIDDLE EAST OIL COUNTRY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 103135

2. KHAN STRESSED THAT PAKISTAN HAD TO BUILD THE CHASMA PLANT. THE COUNTRY, HE SAID, HAD NO ALTERNATIVE GIVEN ITS LIMITED HYDROELECTRIC POTENTIAL AND GAS RESERVES AND THE HIGH COST OF IMPORTING PETROLEUM. THE FACT THAT TUNNEL DIFFICULTIES AT TARBELA DAM MAY LIMIT THE NUMBER OF GENERATORS FROM TWELVE TO EIGHT ONLY MADE THIS ALL THE MORE IMPERATIVE. HE ALSO MENTIONED A RECENT HIGH-LEVEL (ECNFC) GOP DECISION APPROVING THE PROJECT, AND THAT THE NEW GOP FIVE-YEAR PLAN, TO START JULY 1, 1976, INCLUDED PROVISION FOR CHASMA.

BYROADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE103135
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LOU CAVANAUGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760163-0284
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760412/aaaaakdv.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 93857
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2005 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECTS: CHASMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
TAGS: BENC, PK
To: IAEA VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006